

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/714,510
Attorney Docket No.: Q61857

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A program transmitting/receiving system having a center device and at least one terminal device connected through a communication device to the center device, the center device comprising:

 a program information memory device for storing information with regard to a program generated on the basis of a schedule to broadcast a program;

 a program information transmitting device for transmitting the information with regard to the program to the terminal device through the communication device ;

 a broadcasting device for broadcasting the program to the terminal device through the communication device, in accordance with the schedule, and for storing the program therein at a transferable condition to the terminal device; and

 a request program transmitting device for receiving a request signal of the program transmitted by the terminal device, and for transmitting the program, corresponding to the request signal of the program and stored at the transferable condition, through the communication device to the terminal device at least transmitting the request signal of the program, and

 the terminal device comprises:

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a program information receiving device for receiving the information with regard to the program transmitted by the center device;

a program receiving device for receiving the program broadcast by the center device;

an image information generating device for generating an image information for a program selection of a user, on the basis of the information with regard to the program;

a program request signal transmitting device for transmitting the request signal of the program selected by the user to the center device through the communication device, if the program selected by the user in accordance with the image information is a past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device;

a request program receiving device for receiving the program corresponding to the request signal of the program transmitted by the center device; and

a displaying device for displaying the image information on a display,

wherein the information with regard to the program includes statistical data with regard to viewing of the program, and the image information includes information on the basis of the statistical data,

wherein the displaying device displays the image information in a two-dimensional way,

and

wherein the statistical data with regard to viewing of the program comprises one of a viewing rate for the past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device, a number of requests for the past program, and information based on the viewing rate and the number of requests.

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2. (currently amended): The program transmitting/receiving system according to claim 1, wherein the information with regard to the program ~~includes~~comprises information indicating allowance or rejection of transmitting the program,

the terminal device further comprises a viewing information transmitting device for transmitting viewing information with regard to the program received by the program receiving device or request program receiving device through the communication device to the center device, and

the center device further comprises:

a transmission allowance selecting device for receiving the viewing information and selecting allowance or rejection of transmitting the program on the basis of the viewing information;

a program erasing device for erasing the program stored by program information memory device on the basis of the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting; and

a selection updating device for updating information indicating the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting on the basis of the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting,

wherein the information indicating the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting is one indicating whether or not the center device stores the program at a transferable condition to the terminal device in accordance with a request.

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3. (original): The program transmitting/receiving system according to claim 2, wherein the information with regard to the program includes the viewing information, and the image information for the program selection of a user includes a display on the basis of the viewing information.

4. (previously presented): The program transmitting/receiving system according to claim 2, wherein the information with regard to the program includes information with regard to viewing frequency or request frequency as the statistical data, and the center device further comprises:

a calculating device for totaling the viewing information or the request signal of the program and calculating the viewing frequency or the request frequency per program; and a frequency updating device for updating the viewing frequency or the request frequency on the basis of the calculated viewing frequency or calculated request frequency, the transmission allowance selecting device selects allowance or rejection of transmitting the program on the basis of the viewing frequency or the request frequency.

5. (original): The program transmitting/receiving system according to claim 2, wherein the program request signal transmitting device transmits the request signal of the program through the communication device to the center device on the basis of the information indicating allowance or rejection of transmitting the program, included in the information with regard to the program and transmitted by the center device.

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6. (original): The program transmitting/receiving system according to claim 1, wherein the center device updates the information with regard to the program on the basis of a fact that the program is broadcast by the center device.

7. (currently amended): A center device to which at least one terminal device is connected through a communication device, the center device comprises:

 a program information memory device for storing information with regard to a program generated in accordance with a schedule to broadcast a program;

 a program information transmitting device for transmitting the information with regard to the program through the communication device to the terminal device;

 a broadcasting device for broadcasting the program through the communication device to the terminal device, in accordance with the schedule, and for storing the program therein at a transferable condition to the terminal device; and

 a request program transmitting device for receiving a request signal of the program transmitted by the terminal device, and for transmitting the program corresponding to the request signal of the program and stored at the transferable condition, through the communication device to the terminal device at least transmitting the request signal of the program,

 wherein the information with regard to the program includes statistical data with regard to viewing of the program comprising one of a viewing rate for the past program broadcast in

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accordance with the schedule from the center device, a number of requests for the past program,
and information based on the viewing rate and the number of requests.

8. (currently amended): A terminal device connected to a center device having a program and information with regard to the program through a communication device, the terminal device comprises:

 a program information receiving device for receiving the information with regard to the program transmitted by the center device;

 a program receiving device for receiving the program broadcast by the center device;

 an image information generating device for generating an image information for a program selection of a user, in accordance with the information with regard to the program;

 a program request signal transmitting device for transmitting the request signal of the program selected by user through the communication device to the center device, if the program selected by the user in accordance with the image information is a past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device;

 a request program receiving device for receiving the program corresponding to the request signal of the program transmitted by the center device; and

 a displaying device for displaying the image information on a display,

 wherein the information with regard to the program includes statistical data with regard to viewing of the program, and the image information includes an information on the basis of the statistical data,

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wherein the displaying device displays the image information in a two-dimensional way;
and

wherein the statistical data with regard to viewing of the program comprises one of a viewing rate for the past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device, a number of requests for the past program and information based on the viewing rate and the number of requests.

9. (currently amended): A program broadcasting method in a program transmitting/receiving system having a center device and at least one terminal device connected through a communication device to the center device, comprising:

storing information with regard to a program generated on the basis of a schedule to broadcast a program in the center device;

transmitting the information with regard to the program through the communication device from the center device to the terminal device;

broadcasting the program through the communication device from the center device to the terminal device, in accordance with the schedule;

storing the program in the center device at a transferable condition to the terminal device; receiving the information with regard to the program transmitted by the center device, in the terminal device;

generating an image information for a program selection of a user, on the basis of the information with regard to the program in the terminal device;

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transmitting a request signal of the program selected by the user through the communication device from the terminal to the center device, if the program selected by the user on the basis of the image information is a past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device;

receiving the request signal of the program transmitted by the terminal device, in the center device;

transmitting the transferable program corresponding to the request signal of the program through the communication device from the center device to the terminal device at least transmitting the request signal of the program;

receiving the program corresponding to the request signal of the program transmitted by the center device, in the terminal device; and

displaying the image information on a display,

wherein the information with regard to the program includes statistical data with regard to viewing of the program, and the image information includes information on the basis of the statistical data,

wherein the process of displaying displays the image information in a two-dimensional way, and

wherein the statistical data with regard to viewing of the program comprises one of a viewing rate for the past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device, a number of requests for the past program, and information based on the viewing rate and the number of requests.

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10. (currently amended): The program broadcasting method according to claim 9, wherein the information with regard to the program includescomprises information indicating allowance or rejection of transmitting the program, and the program broadcasting method further comprising of the process of: transmitting viewing information with regard to the program received through the communication device from the terminal device to the center device, receiving the viewing information in the center device; selecting allowance or rejection of transmitting the program on the basis of the viewing information in the center device; erasing the program stored in the center device on the basis of the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting; and updating information indicating the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting on the basis of the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting in the center device, wherein the information indicating the selection of allowance or the rejection of transmitting is one indicating whether or not the center device stores the program at a transferable condition to the terminal device in accordance with a request.

11. (original): The program broadcasting method according to claim 10, wherein the information with regard to the program includes the viewing information, and the image

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information for the program selection of a user includes a display on the basis of the viewing information.

12. (previously presented): The program broadcasting method according to claim 10, wherein the information with regard to the program includes information with regard to viewing frequency or request frequency as the statistical data, and

the program broadcasting method further comprising of the processes of:
totaling the viewing information or the request signal of the program;
calculating the viewing frequency or the request frequency per program;
updating the viewing frequency or the request frequency on the basis of the calculated viewing frequency or calculated request frequency; and
selecting allowance or rejection of transmitting the program on the basis of the viewing frequency or the request frequency.

13. (original): The program broadcasting method according to claim 10, further comprising of the process of transmitting the request signal of the program through the communication device to the center device on the basis of the information indicating allowance or rejection of transmitting the program, included in the information with regard to the program and transmitted by the center device.

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14. (original): The program broadcasting method according to claim 9, further comprising of the process of updating the information with regard to the program on the basis of a fact that the program is broadcast by the center device.

15. (currently amended): A program transmitting/receiving system, comprising:
a center station comprising a center control circuit and a memory; and
a plurality of terminal stations connected to the center station via a communication network,

wherein a first terminal station of the plurality of terminal stations comprises a first terminal control circuit,

wherein the center control circuit broadcasts broadcast a program, in accordance with a broadcast schedule, to the plurality of terminal stations via the communication network and stores the program in the memory,

wherein, if a user of the first terminal station selects the program after the center control circuit broadcasts the program, the first terminal control circuit sends a program request signal to the center station, and

wherein the center control circuit reads the program from the memory in response to the program request signal and re-transmits the program to at least the first terminal,

wherein the center control circuit transmits an electronic program guide, which contains at least part of the broadcast schedule and which identifies the program based on at least a broadcast time of the program, to the first terminal station,

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wherein the first terminal control circuit displays the electronic program guide in a two-dimensional way,

wherein the electronic program guide indicates whether or not the program has already been broadcast, ~~and~~

wherein the electronic program guide includes statistical data with regard to viewing of the program; and

wherein the statistical data with regard to viewing of the program comprises one of a viewing rate for the past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device, a number of requests for the past program, and information based on the viewing rate and the number of requests.

16 (canceled).

17 (previously presented): The system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first terminal control circuit only transmits the program request signal for the program after the program has been broadcast.

18. (previously presented): The system as claimed in claim 15, when the electronic program guide indicates that the program has already been broadcast and the user selects the program, the first terminal control circuit sends the program request signal to the center station, and

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wherein, when the electronic program guide indicates that the program has not been broadcast and the user selects the program, the first terminal control circuit does not send the program request signal to the center station.

19. (previously presented): The system as claimed in claim 18, when the electronic program guide indicates that the program is currently being broadcast and the user selects the program, the first terminal control circuit does not send the program request signal to the center station and tunes to a channel on which the program is being broadcast.

20. (currently amended): A terminal station, comprising:

a display; and

a control circuit,

wherein the control circuit receives an electronic program guide that indicates past programs that have been broadcast from a center station in the past, identifies current programs that are currently being broadcast from the center station, and identifies future programs that will be broadcast from the center station in the future,

wherein the control circuit display the electronic program guide on the display in a two-dimensional way,

wherein, when a user selects a selected past program from one of the part programs identified in the electronic program guide, the control circuit outputs a request signal to the

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center station requesting the center station to re-transmit the selected past program to the terminal station,

wherein the electronic program guide also indicates statistical data with regard to viewing of the program; and

wherein the statistical data with regard to viewing of the program comprises one of a viewing rate for the past program broadcast in accordance with the schedule from the center device, a number of requests for the past program, and information based on the viewing rate and the number of requests.

21. (previously presented): The terminal stations as claimed in claim 20, wherein, when the user selects a selected current program from one of the current programs from the electronic program guide, the control circuit does not output a request signal to the center station relating to the selected current program.

22. (previously presented): The terminal station as claimed in claim 21, wherein, when the user selects the selected current program the control circuit tunes to a channel on which the current program is being broadcast from the center station.

23. (previously presented): The system as claimed in claim 15, wherein a channel on which the program is broadcast from the center station in accordance with the broadcast schedule

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is different than a channel on which the program is re-transmitted in response to the program request signal.

24. (previously presented): The system as claimed in claim 20, wherein a channel on which the selected past program is broadcast from the center station in accordance with the broadcast different than a channel on which the selected past program is re-transmitted in response to the request signal.

25. - 30. (canceled).